

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

AMEMBASSY SUVA

CINCPAC PRIORITY

COMDT COAST GUARD WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 149022

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, NZ, FR, CDES, FP (PANAM AIRLINES CRASH)

SUBJECT: FRI CASE; CONSULAR SERVICES IN TAHITI

REF: CANBERRA 4181; PARIS 20624

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. FOR PARIS. CONFIRMING MAGEE-CONNETT TELCONS, EMBASSY SHOULD TELL CHAMBRUN THAT WE APPRECIATE PROMPT FRENCH APPROVAL OF OUR REQUEST FOR US CONSULAR OFFICER TO PROCEED TAHITI ON TDY IN CONNECTION WITH FRI CASE AND PANAM CRASH, UNCLASSIFIED

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AND AGREE TO CONSUL ALTA FOWLER GOING FROM SYDNEY.

2. DEPT SHARES GOF VIEW THAT SUVA IS LOGICAL POST TO FURNISH OFFICER, BUT CONSULAR OFFICER POSITION THERE PRESENTLY VACANT. ONLY POSSIBILITY WAS NEW PRINCIPAL OFFICER WHO ARRIVED AT POST LESS THAN ONE WEEK AGO. FURTHERMORE DEPT UNDERSTANDS DIRECT AIR TRAVEL BETWEEN SUVA AND TAHITI HAS BECOME DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO LOCAL AIRLINES STRIKE PROTESTING FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES DEPT FORCED TO TURN TO OTHER POSTS IN AREA FOR A CANDIDATE.

3. MISS FOWLER WILL TRAVEL ASAP AND WE WILL INFORM GOF OF HER TRAVEL PLANS AND ETA TAHITI.

4. FOR SYDNEY. POST SHOULD ISSUE TRAVEL ORDERS AUTHORIZING FOWLER DIRECT TRAVEL TO TAHITI TO PERFORM TDY, AND RETURN SYDNEY VIA ONE-DAY CONSULTATION IN SUVA (AIRLINES TRAVEL SITUATION PERMITTING). REPORT TRAVEL PLANS ASAP.

5. DEPT WILL PROVIDE SEPARATE INSTRUCTIONS ON FRI CASE.

6. RE PANAM CRASH WHICH RESULTED IN DEATHS APPROXIMATELY 39 US CITIZENS, FOWLER SHOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN LOCAL DEATH CERTIFICATES IN ORDER EXECUTE FS-192 FORMS. OF 79 PERSONS ABOARD, ONLY 11 BODIES RECOVERED SO FAR. IF LOCAL AUTHORITIES SHOULD NOT BE WILLING ISSUE PRESUMPTIVE DEATH CERTIFICATES, FOWLER SHOULD ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO ISSUE OWN PRESUMPTIVE REPORTS.
ROGERS

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